Amendment to Route Disbursal Guidelines

2370. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bagdogra figures in the list of Category-II routes under the Route Disbursal Guidelines, issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any proposal to amend this has been submitted to Government by Directorate General of Civil Aviation;

(d) if so, what action has been taken by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on this proposal so far; and

(e) what are the details of the routes being covered by all the scheduled airlines, route-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The term "North-Eastern Region" used in the Route Disbursal Guidelines is construed to cover the entire region of "Air Defence Identification Zone (East)" which also includes Bagdogra.

(c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had submitted a factual note in this regard to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Routes/Services operated by scheduled airlines depend on customer demand, seasonal changes and other relevant factors and are published from time to time by the concerned airlines.

Direct flight to China

2371. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no direct air link with China; and

(b) if so, the action taken to start a direct passenger flight to China to boost bilateral ties and tourism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) China Eastern Airlines, the designated airlines of China, has commenced twice weekly services to Delhi, one each from Beijing and Shanghai, effective 28th March, 2002.

IA flights on unviable routes

2372. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has been plying its services on several routes which are unviable;

(b) if so, the details thereof and losses suffered on such routes during the last three years;

(c) whether Government's policies have been causing losses to the Indian Airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to revise its policies to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) The details of services operated by Indian Airlines and its wholly owned subsidiary of Alliance Air that did not meet cash cost for the last three years are as follows:—

Year	No. of services	Loss per Annum (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	43	23.74
1999-2000	26	15.46
2000-2001	53	78.22

(c) to (e) Ministry of Civil Aviation has laid down Route Disbursal Guidelines *vide* its order dated 1st March, 1994, with a